



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING
BUILDING DIVISION
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Solar Hot Water Heating Pre-Plumbing Installation Requirements

FORM 4622

These requirements are applicable in all new Single Family Dwellings. They also apply to Multi Family Dwellings where each unit extends vertically from the foundation to the roof or where buildings have a central water heating system that serves all the units.

- For roofs having less than a 4" in 12" slope that have clay or concrete roof tiles: Two 3/4" copper pipes and one 3/4" Electrical Metallic Tubing (EMT) conduit, shall be stubbed out a minimum of 12" above the roof, capped off and provided with roof jacks for a future solar hot water heating system. The pipe and conduit shall be run to the location of the water heater, be capped off and be readily accessible.
- Locations for both pipes and conduit will be to the largest roof area that is south facing, or secondarily to the largest west facing roof area.
- The area of roof penetrated should be at least 300 square feet and not subject to shading by trees, vent pipes or other factors.)
- For roofs having a 4" in 12" slope or greater with any type of roof covering: Provide two 3/4" copper pipes and one 3/4" EMT conduit to an accessible location in the attic a minimum of 6" above the insulation and be capped off. The pipes and conduit shall be run to the location of the water heater, be capped off and be readily accessible.
- Pipes shall be sloped at least 1/4" per foot of run from the upper capped end at the roof to the lowest capped end at the storage tank. This will enable drainage for freeze protection and maintenance.
- Pipe insulation shall have at least a 1" thick wall and be rated to 212 degrees F
- The use of Tank-less Water Heaters does not exempt these pre-plumbing/piping requirements.
- The use of CPVC and PEX piping is not permitted.
- Both pipes and conduit shall be run and properly supported the entire length of the building to the area where the water heater will be placed.
- Work shall comply with the Plumbing and Electrical codes in effect at the time of plan check approval.
- Any notching and boring of studs or top plates shall be strapped/nail plated to provide protection for the pipe/conduit and shall reestablish the structural integrity of the members. (Per chapter 23 of the California Building Code in effect at the time of plan check approval.)
- Pre-plumbing/piping shall be complete for rough frame inspection.
- For questions please call (619) 691-5272 #3613. For more information, please see our website, the "Sustainability Center" (www.chulavista.gov/goto/sustainability) under "Forms".

